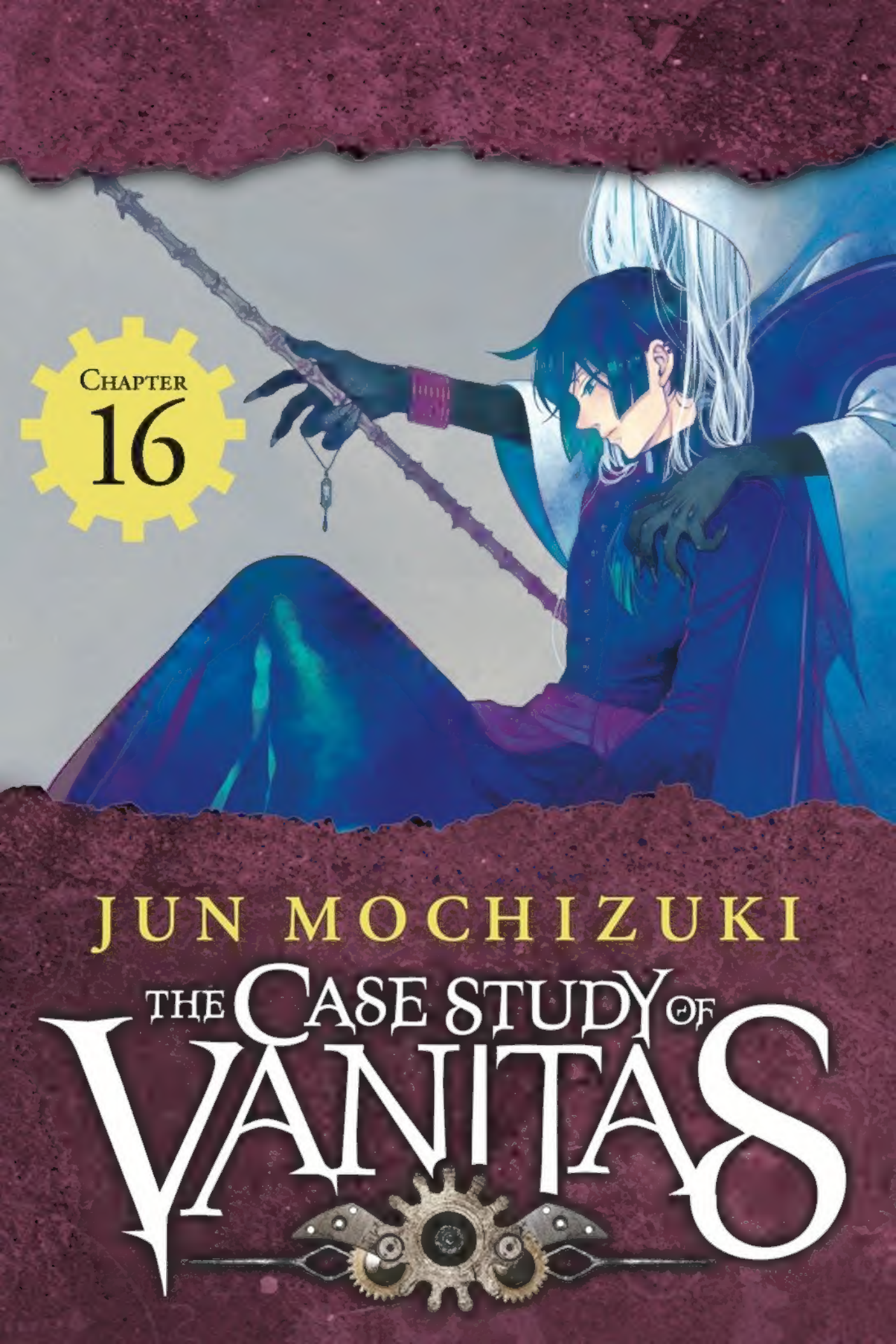




CHAPTER

16

JUN MOCHIZUKI

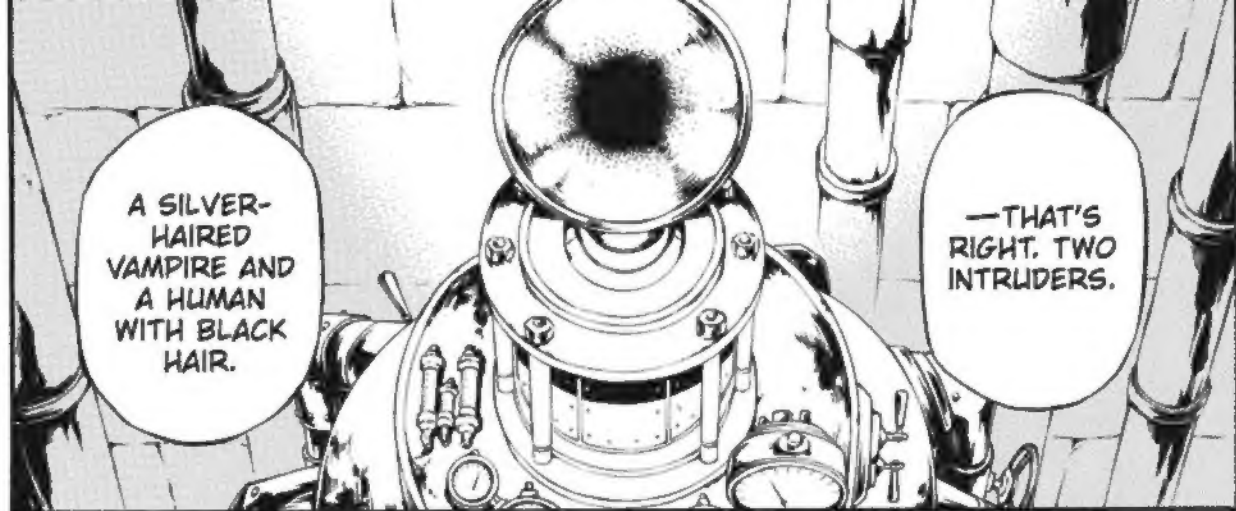
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS



THE MEMOIRS OF VANITAS

JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS

Mémoire 16
Galop - AT THE END OF THE RIOT -



A SILVER-
HAIRD
VAMPIRE AND
A HUMAN
WITH BLACK
HAIR.

—THAT'S
RIGHT. TWO
INTRUDERS.



...MAKE
SURE YOU
TAKE THE
HUMAN
ALIVE.

WHATEVER
YOU DO,
DON'T KILL
HIM.



THEY'VE
STOLEN
CLOTHES
FROM
CHURCHMEN.

THE
VAMPIRE
IS A
FORMIDABLE
FOE. BE
CAREFUL.

AND...



OLIVIER'S
GOING TO BE
MAD AT ME
LATER.

TO THINK
I'D HAVE
TROUBLE
WITH A
COUPLE OF
INTRUDERS.



SIGH...



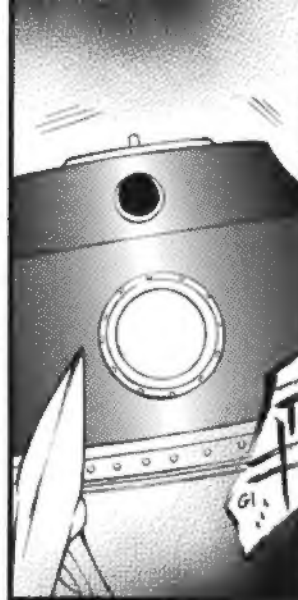






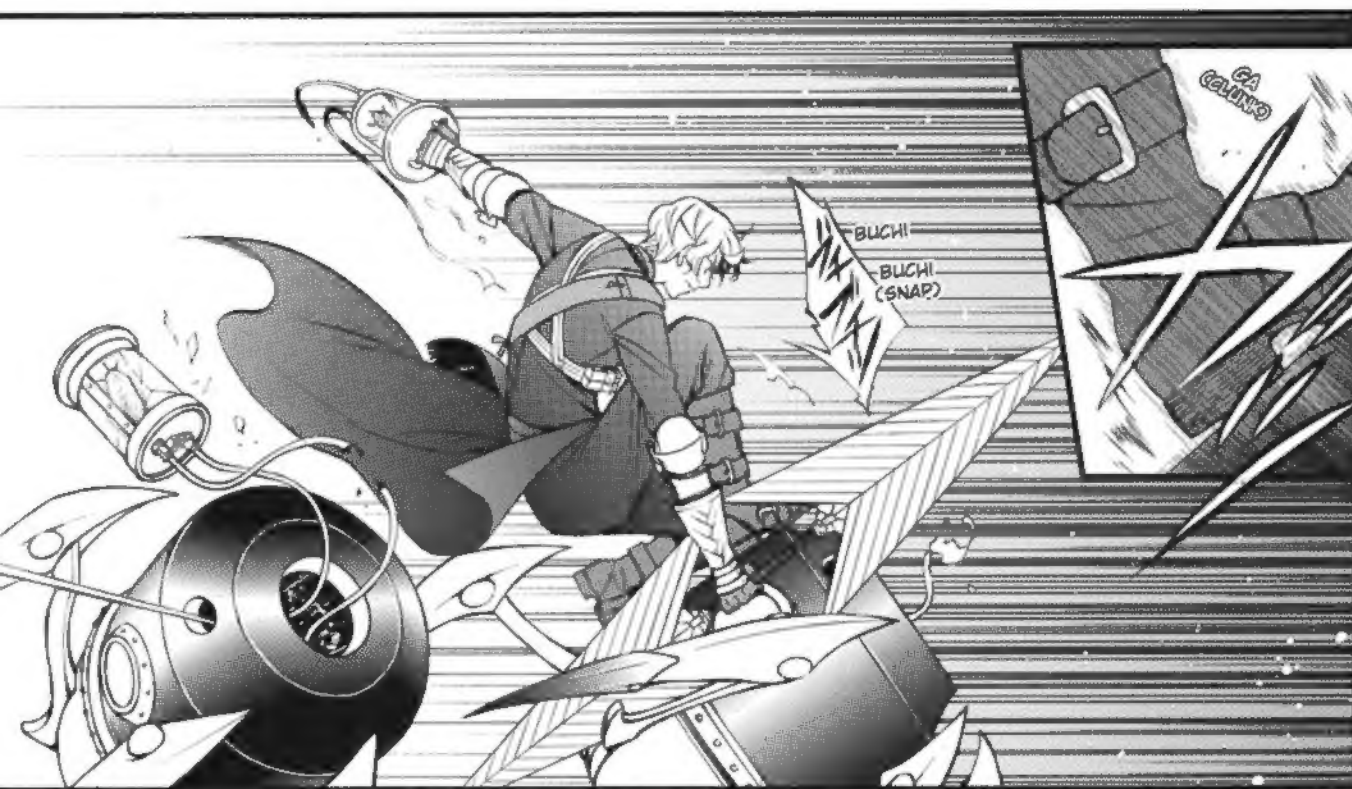
THE
AUTOMATONS
ARE
RUNNING
AMOK...!?

TA
(TMP)



PUSHUU
(PSHOO)

PUSHUU



BUCHI

BUCHI
(SNAP)

GA
(CLUNK)



CAPTAIN...
THERE'S
SOMETHING...
STRANGE...
ABOUT
THOSE TWO.



PULL
YOURSELF
TOGETHER!
WHAT
HAPPENED?

THE
ASTERMITE
IS GLOWING
RED...I'VE
NEVER
SEEN THAT
REACTION
BEFORE.

DO
(WHUD)



IT'S
AS
IF...



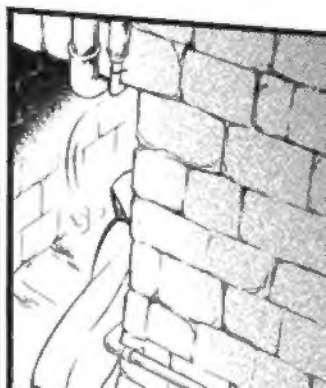
THEY
KNOW THIS
UNDERGROUND
LABYRINTH FAR
TOO WELL!



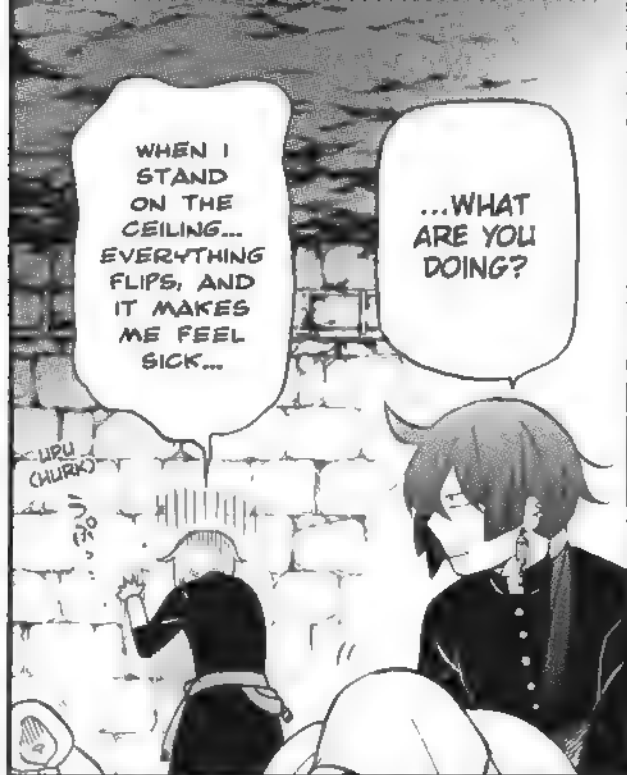
THERE'LL
BE AN ODD
LIGHT, AND
SUDDENLY,
THE SECURITY
AUTOMATONS
WILL BEGIN TO
RAMPAGE.

WE'LL BE
CHASING
THEM, BUT
BEFORE WE
KNOW IT,
THEY'LL HAVE
CIRCLED
AROUND
BEHIND US.

TRAPS
THAT
SHOULDN'T
REACT TO
US ARE
MISFIRING.







WHEN I
STAND
ON THE
CEILING...
EVERYTHING
FLIPS, AND
IT MAKES
ME FEEL
SICK...

...WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



... I G O M M M L B



...
YOU'RE
CLOSE,
BUT
NO.

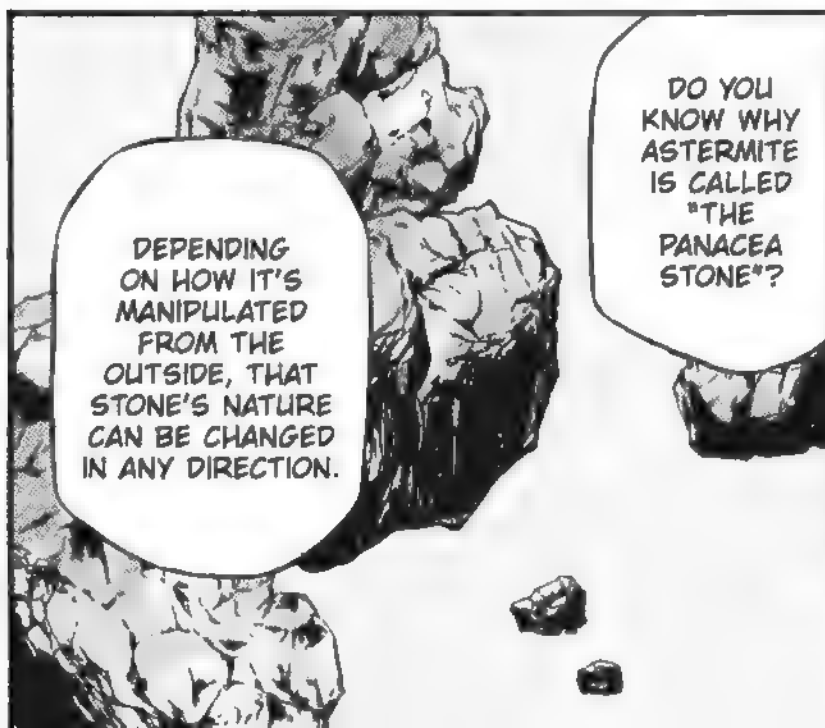
CAN
THAT BOOK
INTERFERE
WITH
MACHINES
AS WELL?



HM?

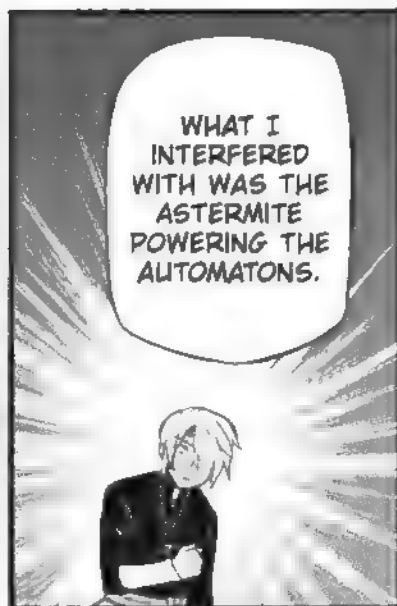
BACK
THERE...
WHAT
DID YOU
DO?

YOU USED
THE BOOK
OF VANITAS
TO SEND THE
AUTOMATONS
OUT OF
CONTROL,
DIDN'T YOU.



DEPENDING
ON HOW IT'S
MANIPULATED
FROM THE
OUTSIDE, THAT
STONE'S NATURE
CAN BE CHANGED
IN ANY DIRECTION.

DO YOU
KNOW WHY
ASTERMITE
IS CALLED
"THE
PANACEA
STONE"?

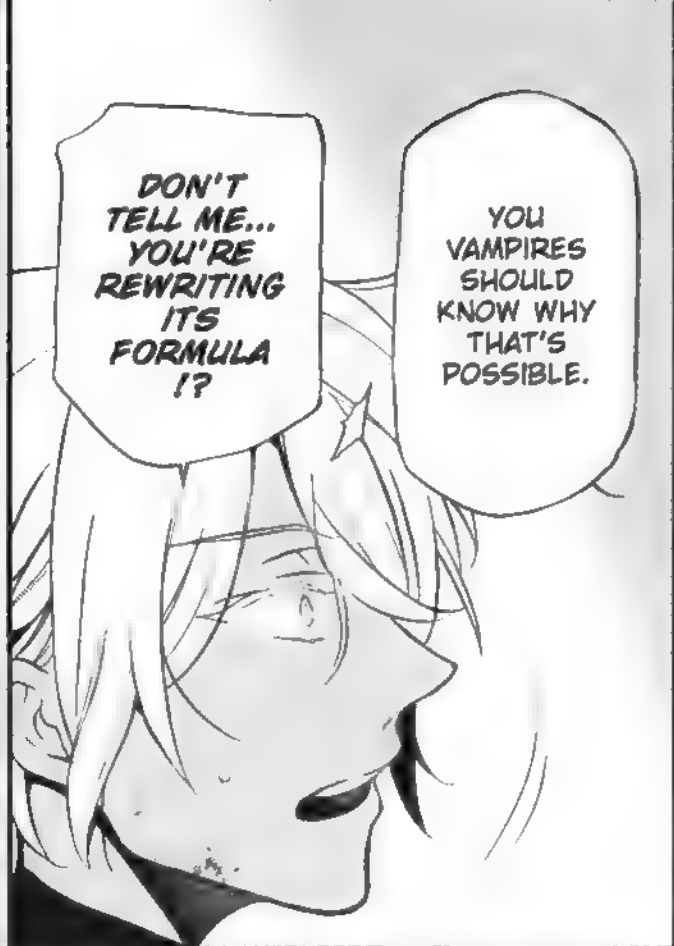


WHAT I
INTERFERED
WITH WAS THE
ASTERMITE
POWERING THE
AUTOMATONS.



THAT'S
RIGHT.

ASTERMITE
IS A MINERAL
THAT CHANGES
ITS PROPERTIES
BY REWRITING
THE WORLD
FORMULA.



DON'T
TELL ME...
YOU'RE
REWRITING
ITS
FORMULA
!?

YOU
VAMPIRES
SHOULD
KNOW WHY
THAT'S
POSSIBLE.



IT'S
THE SAME
AS WHEN
I TINKER
WITH
VAMPIRES'
TRUE
NAMES.

I
TWEAKED
THE
ASTERMITE
THROUGH
THAT PIPE.

IN OTHER
WORDS, THAT
STONE HAS
A PIPE THAT
CONNECTS TO
THE WORLD
FORMULA, JUST
AS VAMPIRES
DO.



...I HOPED
WE'D REACH
OUR DESTINATION
WITHOUT RUNNING
INTO ANY
CHASSEURS, BUT
THESE THINGS
NEVER GO THE
WAY YOU WANT
THEM TO.

SERI-
OUSLY
...

"BUTSU
BUTSU"
(MUTTER)

NOW, IF
THE TRAPS
THEY'VE SET
EVERYWHERE
USE ASTERMITE
AS WELL,
WE'LL MANAGE
SOMEHOW.

...I'D
LIKE TO
ASK.

—THERE
ARE
OTHER
THINGS
...

WHAT
IS YOUR
CONNECTION
TO HIM?

WHY...?

HEY.

HOW...?

WHAT
IS THAT
MAN
MOREAU
TRYING
TO
ACHIEVE
?

HOW DO YOU
KNOW THIS
PLACE WELL
ENOUGH TO
TOY WITH THE
CHASSEURS?

...QUIT
MAKING
THAT
FACE.

DON'T
LIE.

ぐん
(WORM)

I
ALWAYS
LOOK
LIKE
THIS.





A close-up of a character's head, showing dark hair and a large, ornate earring. The character is looking down, and a speech bubble is positioned to their left.

...THERE'S
NOT MUCH
OF A
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
HUMANS AND
VAMPIRES.

A close-up of a character's head, showing dark hair and a large, ornate earring. The character is looking down, and a speech bubble is positioned to their right.

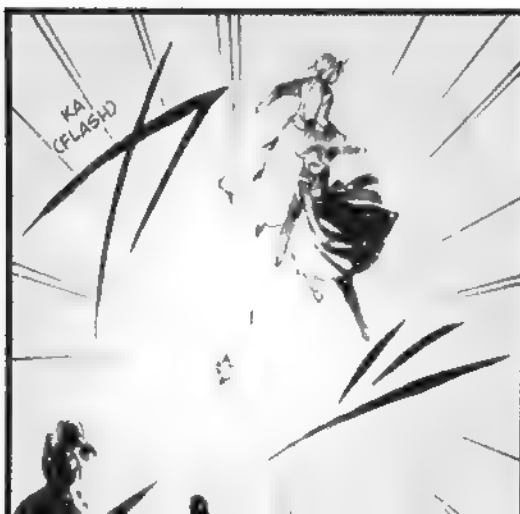
.....IF
YOU ASK
ME...

A close-up of a character's face, showing dark hair and a large, ornate earring. The character is looking down, and a speech bubble is positioned to their right.

THEY'RE ALL
TERRIBLY
UGLY,
ENDLESSLY
SELFISH
CREATURES.









IT'S NO
GOOD.
I CAN'T
OPERATE
IT!

THE
BARRIER
...!?



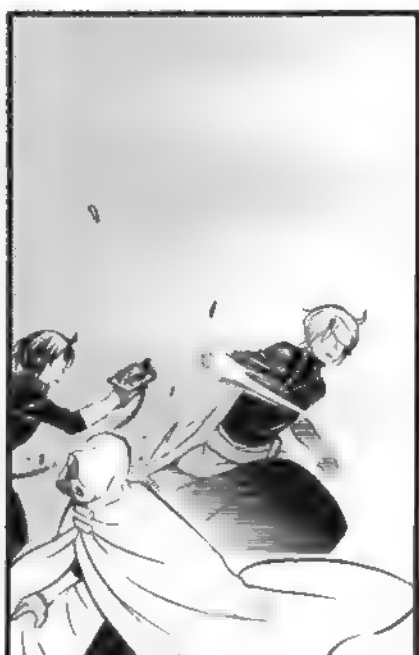
GODON
(CLUNK)



DA
(TMP)



AS IF
I'D LET
YOU
GET
AWAY!





DON'T
GO
AFTER
THEM
ALONE!

MARIA,
STOP!



HE'S
OUR
ENEMY!

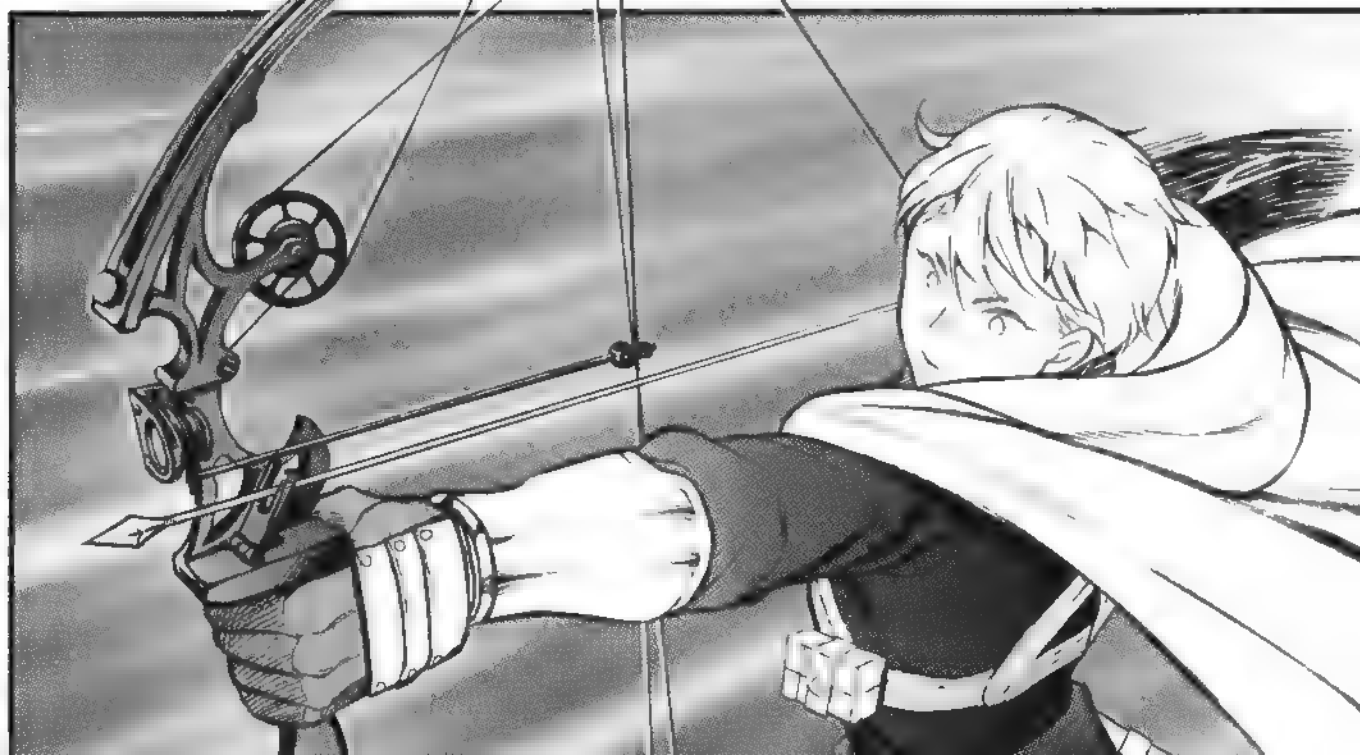
I KNEW IT.
THAT HUMAN
IS WITH THE
VAMPIRES
OF HIS OWN
WILL.

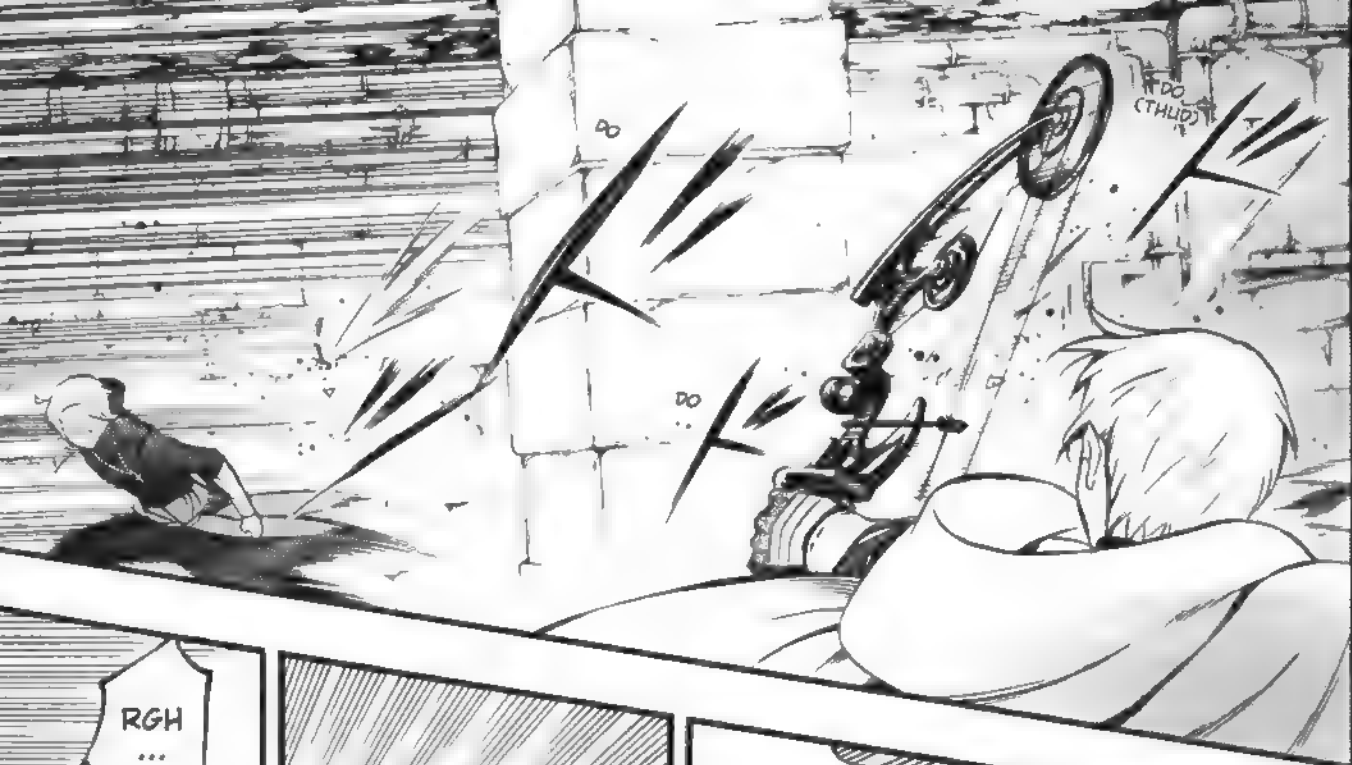


BEFORE THE
CAPTAIN AND
THE OTHERS
OVERTAKE
US, I'LL—!

I'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE
HIM.

THE
CAPTAIN
IS KIND,
SO HE'LL
PROBABLY
WANT TO
BELIEVE
HIM ANYWAY.





RGH
...



I CAN'T
TRACK
HIM
VISUALLY!

HE'S
FAST...!



GOTSU
(WHUNK)



FU
(FFT)



HUH? IF
SOMEONE TURNS
A WEAPON ON
YOU, WHO CARES
WHAT THEIR
GENDER IS?

HOW
COULD
YOU!?
SHE'S A
WOMAN!!



WHA
...!?



FROM THIS
POINT ON,
WE HAVE TO
BEAT THAT
MAN, LAURENT,
WITHOUT
LETTING HIM
FIGHT.



IF I
DON'T USE
LETHAL
FORCE,
I CAN'T
PROTECT
MYSELF.

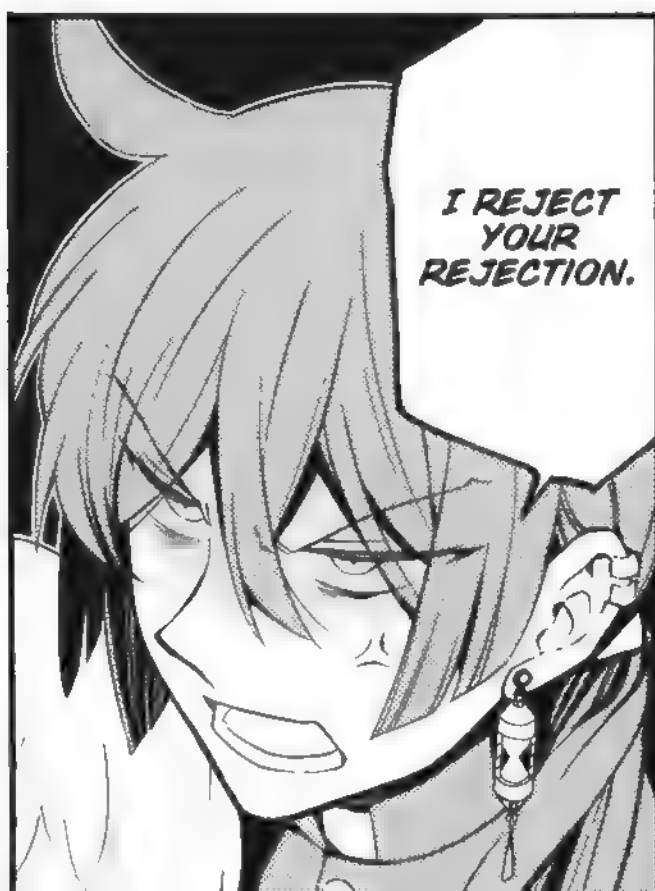
APPARENTLY,
UNLIKE
SOMEBODY,
I'M
ABYSMALLY
WEAK.

URGH
...



ALL
RIGHT.
LISTEN
UP,
NOÉ.





THIS
SORT OF
THING IS THE
FASTEST WAY
TO HANDLE
TYPES LIKE
JEANNE AND
THAT MAN,
THAT'S ALL.

JUST
SO YOU'RE
AWARE, I
DON'T USE
METHODS
LIKE THIS
AGAINST
EVERYONE.

TCH!

THAT
CHATTY
PRETTY
BOY
...

THAT
THING
WHEN WE
FOUGHT
JEANNE! HE
SAID YOU
HAD ME
TAKE LUCA
HOSTAGE!

YOU'RE
DOING
THAT
AGAIN!?
DANTE
TOLD ME
ALL ABOUT
IT!

...WE'LL
LOSE ANY
POSSIBILITY
OF TALKING
THIS OUT
WITH
LAURENT!

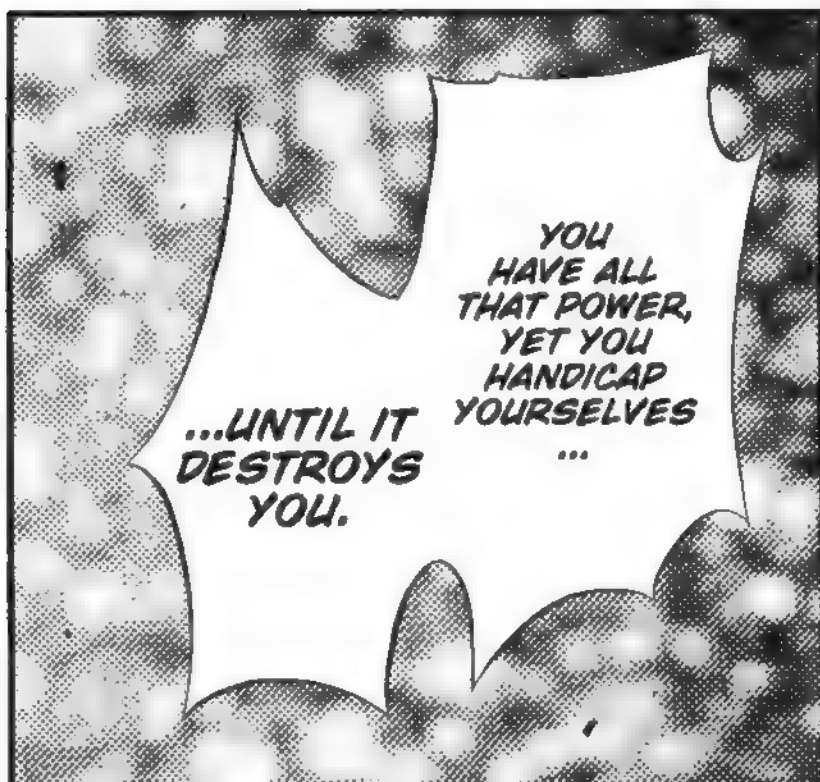
I'M
AGAINST
IT! IF
WE DO
A THING
LIKE THAT,
THEN...

YOU'RE
STILL
SAYING
THINGS
LIKE
THAT!?

COULDN'T
YOU TELL
FROM OUR
LITTLE
EXCHANGE
BACK
THERE!? IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO DISCUSS
ANYTHING
WITH HIM!

H
U
U
U
U
U
U
U
H
!?





**ENOUGH.
I CAN'T
DEAL
WITH YOU
ANYMORE.**

**VANITAS
...?**

**IF YOU
DON'T LIKE
THE WAY I
DO THINGS,
THEN GO DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT
ON YOUR
OWN!**

**...SOMEDAY
I'LL GET
PULLED INTO
THE MESS
AND KILLED
TOO!**

**IF I
KEEP
WORKING
WITH
SOMEONE
AS NAIVE
AS YOU...**

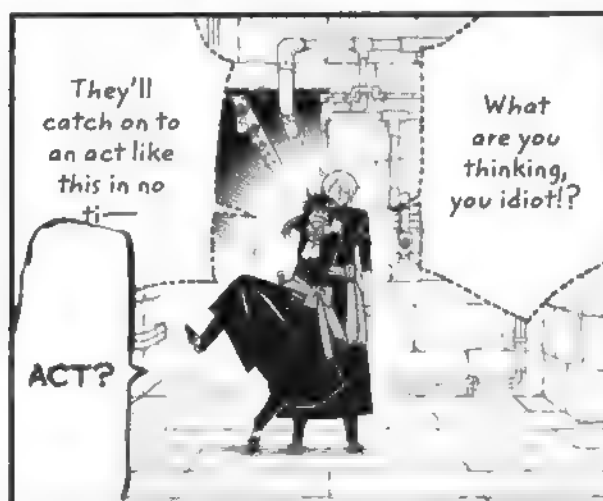
**YOU
CANDY-
BRAINED,
BLOOD-
SUCKING
BAT*!!**

**GO ON.
MAKE
FRIENDS
WITH THE
CLERGY.**











YOU'RE
TELLING
ME THAT'S
ACTING,
GEORGES!?

HEY! YOU!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING,
LAURENT!!?

YOU'RE
REALLY—!
SERIOUSLY
PLANNING TO
USE ME AS A
PAWN!?

HURRY UP
AND SAVE ME!!
I MEAN IT! I'M
BEGGING YOU,
HELP!!!

NRGH...
YOU KNOW,
THAT
REALLY
DOES
LOOK...

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

SFX: JITA BATA (KICK STRUGGLE)



!?

VANITAS...
WHAT YOU
SAID EARLIER.
THERE'S JUST
ONE POINT
THAT I AGREE
WITH.

WE CAN'T LET LAURENT
START FIGHTING.



WAIT!
STOP—

HUH
!?

RIGHT.

SO...
HAVE
A NICE
TRIP!



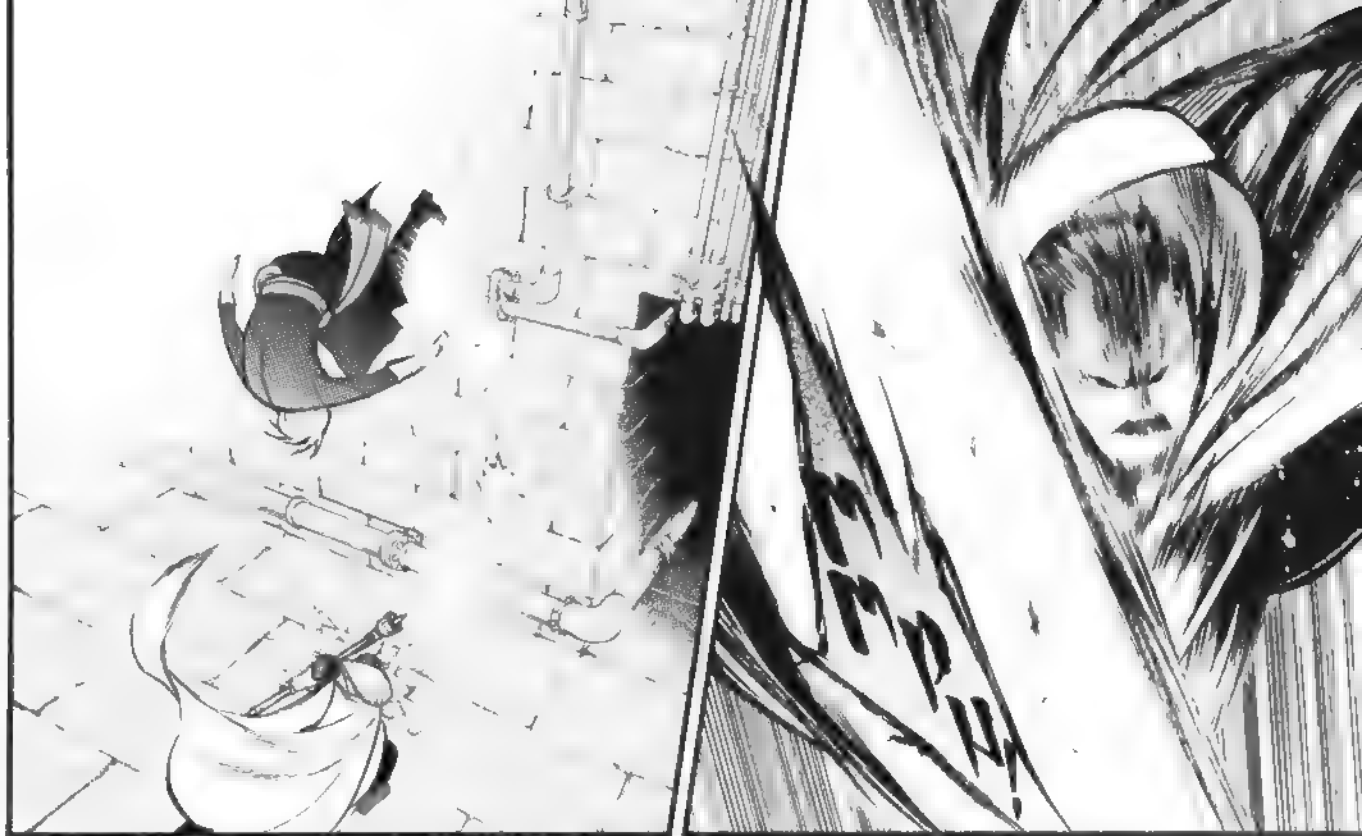
BYLIN
(WHIRR)

DWA
A
A
A
A
A
A
A
A
A
H!!!

RRGH!

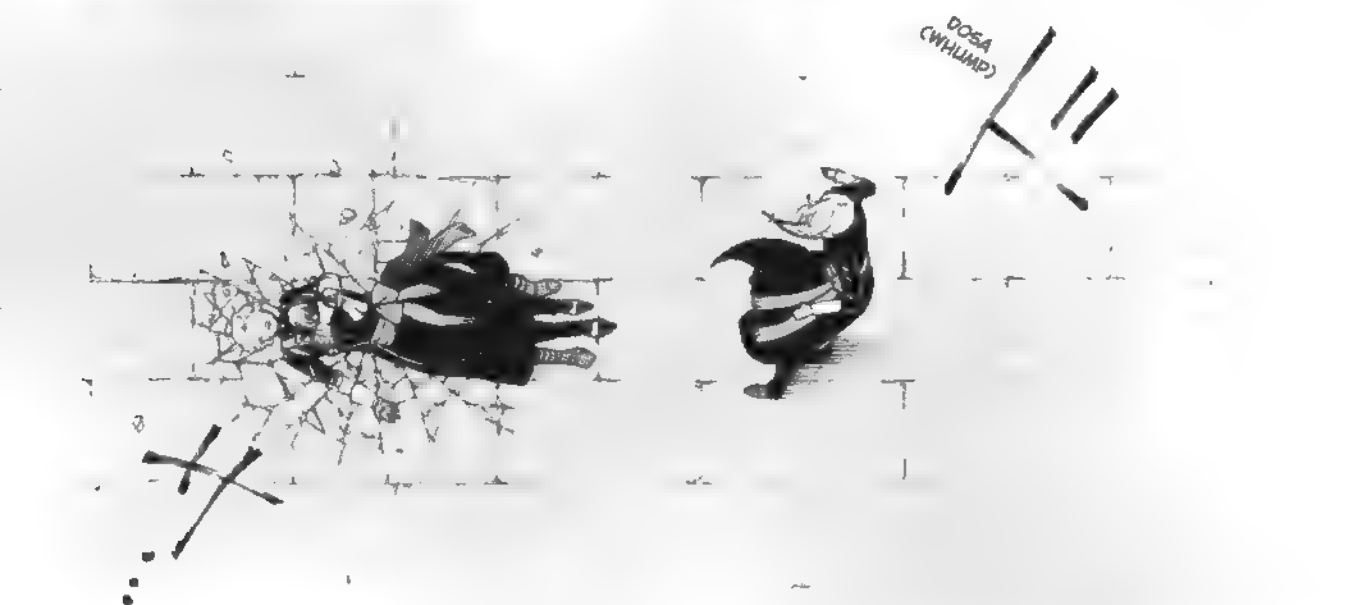
DA
(DASH)

VANITAS!!













I SWEAR
TO YOU THAT
WE DID NOT KILL
THE OWNERS OF
THESE CLOTHES,
NOR DID WE
HURT THEM ANY
MORE THAN WE
HAD TO.

HOWEVER
...



FIRST,
LET ME
APOLOGIZE
FOR INTRUDING
ON YOUR
TERRITORY
WITHOUT
PERMISSION.

...HEY, NOÉ.
YOU IDIOT.
WHY ARE YOU
INTRODUCING
YOURSELF?



...

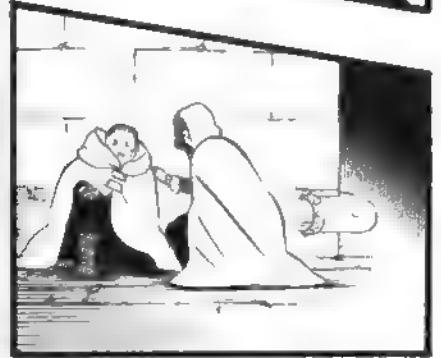
WHAT...
ARE
YOU...



PLEASE,
LISTEN TO
WHAT WE
HAVE TO
SAY!

SO,
PLEASE.





HEAR
US OUT
FIRST.

IT'S VERY
LIKELY THAT
THE MAN YOU
CHASSEURS
ONCE EXILED
IS STILL HERE,
UNDERGROUND.



...I DIDN'T
KNOW
THOSE WERE
HAPPENING.

—VAMPIRE
ABDUCTIONS
...



YOU BELIEVE ALL THIS, CAPTAIN!?

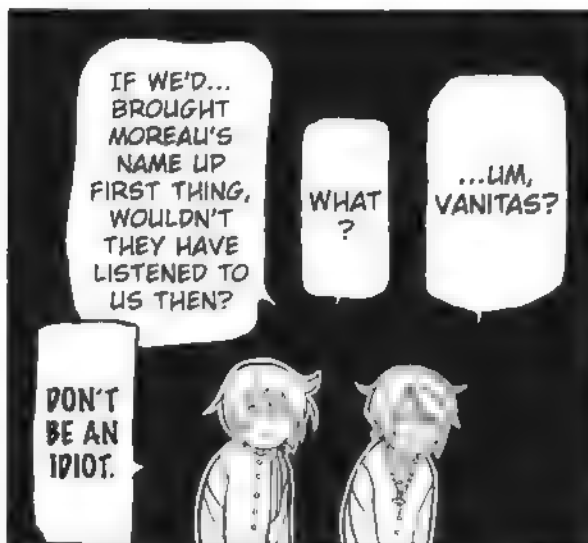
ACTUALLY, IT ALL MAKES A LOT MORE SENSE NOW.



...AND VANITAS WAS HIS RESEARCH SUBJECT, AS WELL AS MY FORMER COLLEAGUE.

OW.
OW.
OW...

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THE CULPRIT IS THAT MAD SCIENTIST, DOCTOR MOREAU...

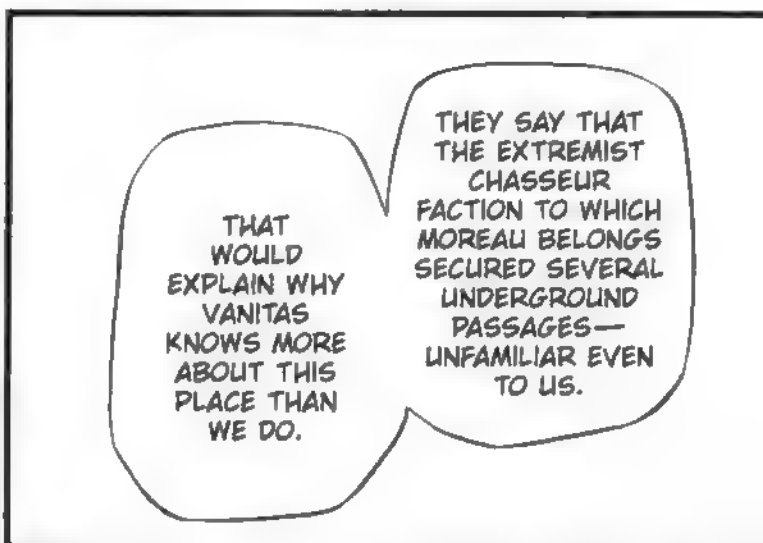


IF WE'D... BROUGHT MOREAU'S NAME UP FIRST THING, WOULDN'T THEY HAVE LISTENED TO US THEN?

WHAT?

...UM, VANITAS?

DON'T BE AN IDIOT.



THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY VANITAS KNOWS MORE ABOUT THIS PLACE THAN WE DO.

THEY SAY THAT THE EXTREMIST CHASSEUR FACTION TO WHICH MOREAU BELONGS SECURED SEVERAL UNDERGROUND PASSAGES— UNFAMILIAR EVEN TO US.

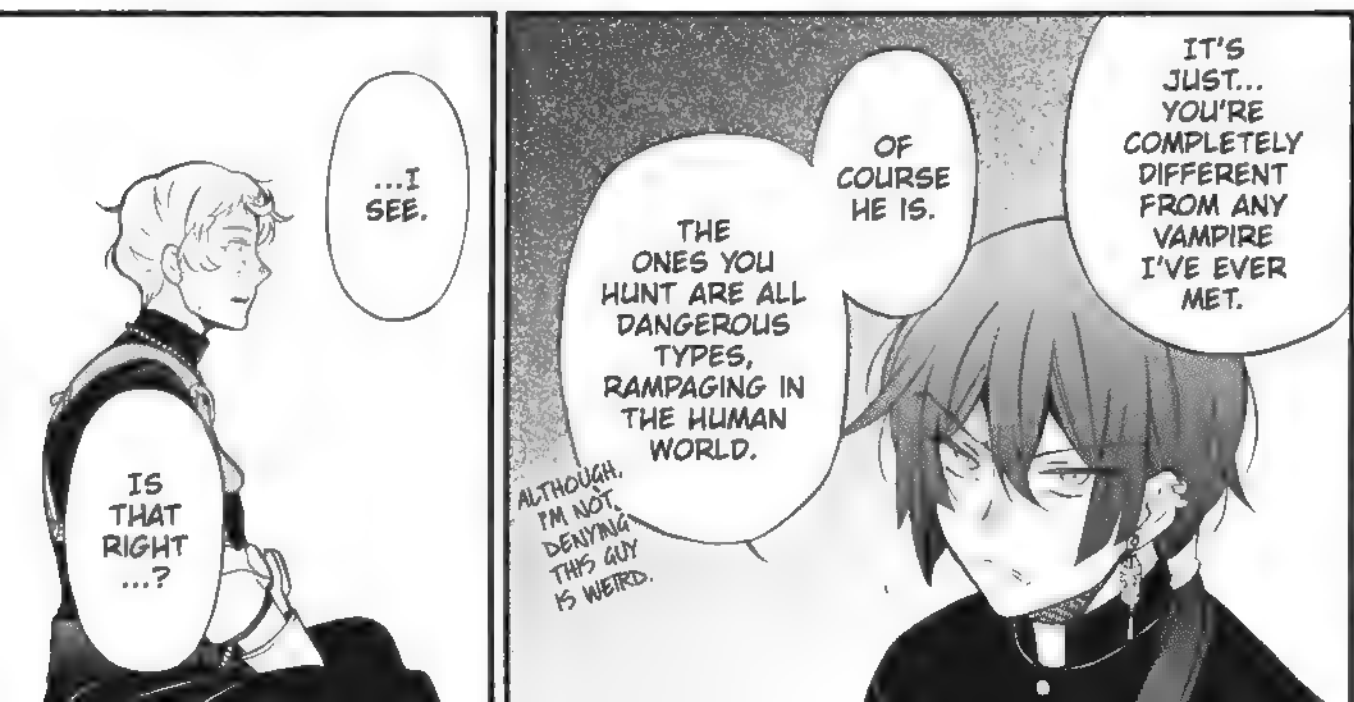


Besides, if I'd mentioned Moreau, I would have had to tell them about myself as well, so I didn't want to.

BOBO (MUTTER)

TH- THAT'S RIGHT. I'M SORRY.

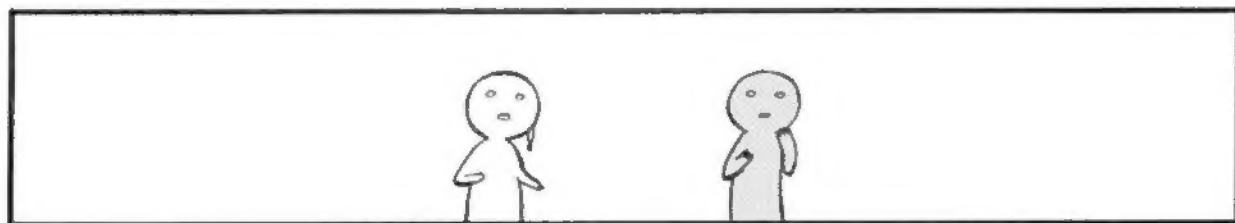
THAT MAN ATTACKED US WITHOUT LISTENING TO A WORD WE SAID, REMEMBER?







WE
EXPLAINED
THINGS,
AND HE
UNDER-
STOOD.



THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

CHAPTER 16

JUN MOCHIZUKI

TRANSLATION: TAYLOR ENGEL • LETTERING: BIANCA PISTILLO

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